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**Colar et al.**

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(54) **DYNAMIC MESSAGE RETRIEVAL BY  
SUBDIVIDING A MESSAGE QUEUE INTO  
SUB-QUEUES**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
CPC ..... H04L 47/622; H04L 47/6235  
USPC ..... 709/213-215; 710/52-57  
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

This patent is subject to a terminal dis-  
claimer.

Exemplary embodiments provide methods and systems for  
dynamically changing a message retrieval scheme during  
runtime in a client/server electronic messaging system in  
which the server executes a message retrieval component and  
incoming messages received from the client is stored in a  
message queue. Aspects of the exemplary embodiment  
include accessing messaging business rules from a memory  
by a message retrieval component at runtime, wherein the  
messaging business rules define a primary retrieval scheme  
and a secondary retrieval scheme, and wherein a value pro-  
vided for each of the primary retrieval scheme and the sec-  
ondary retrieval scheme are selected from a combination of  
different message retrieval types including: First In First Out  
(FIFO), Last In First Out (LIFO), and random. The message  
retrieval component subdivides the message queue into sub-  
queues based on at least one of a message quantity limit and  
a message received time limit specified in the business rules.  
Each of the sub-queues is then accessed using the value of the  
secondary retrieval scheme; and messages from each of the  
sub-queues are retrieved using the value of the primary  
retrieval scheme.

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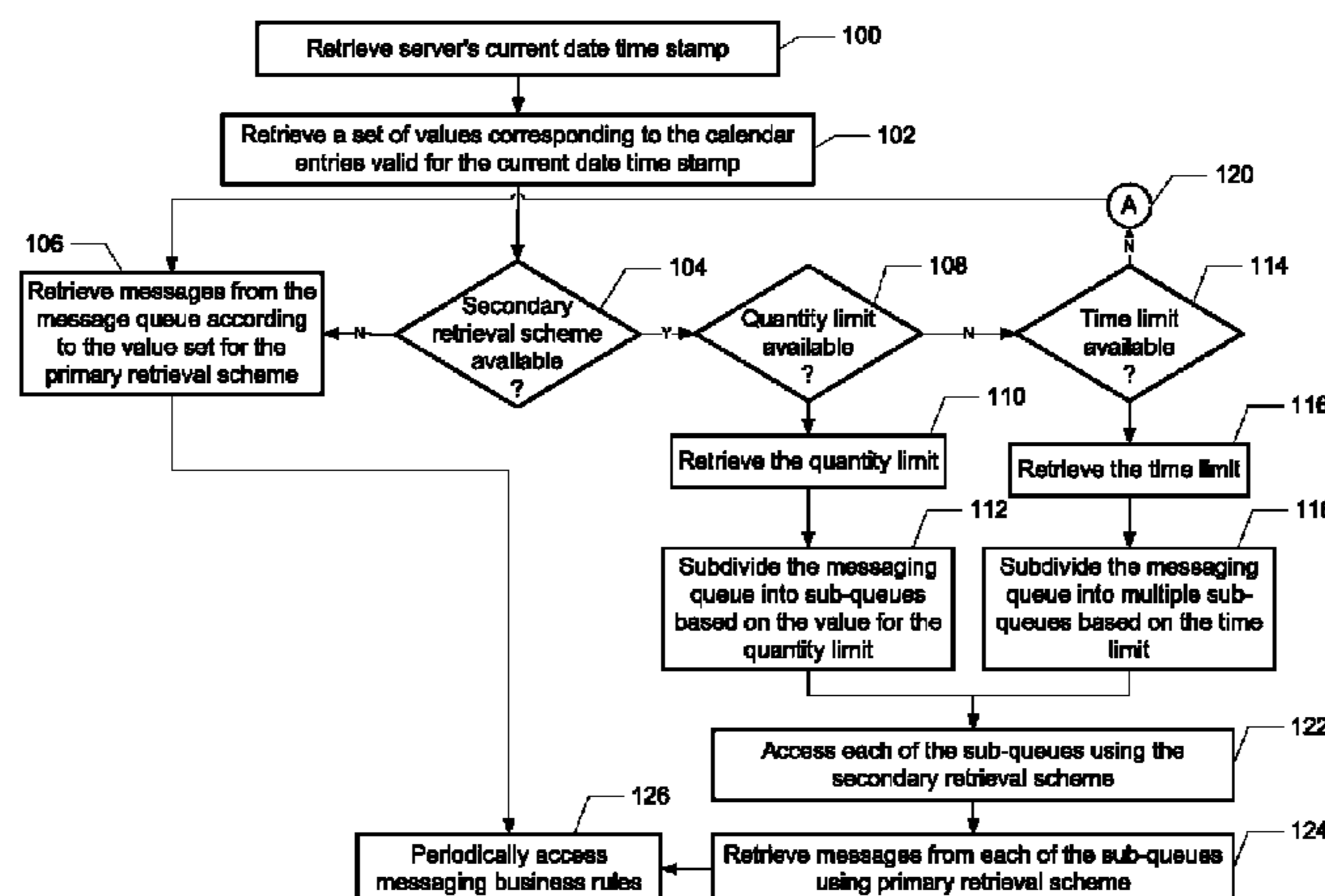
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**G06F 15/167** (2006.01)  
**H04L 12/58** (2006.01)  
**H04L 12/863** (2013.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
CPC ..... **H04L 51/22** (2013.01); **H04L 47/622**  
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**10 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets**



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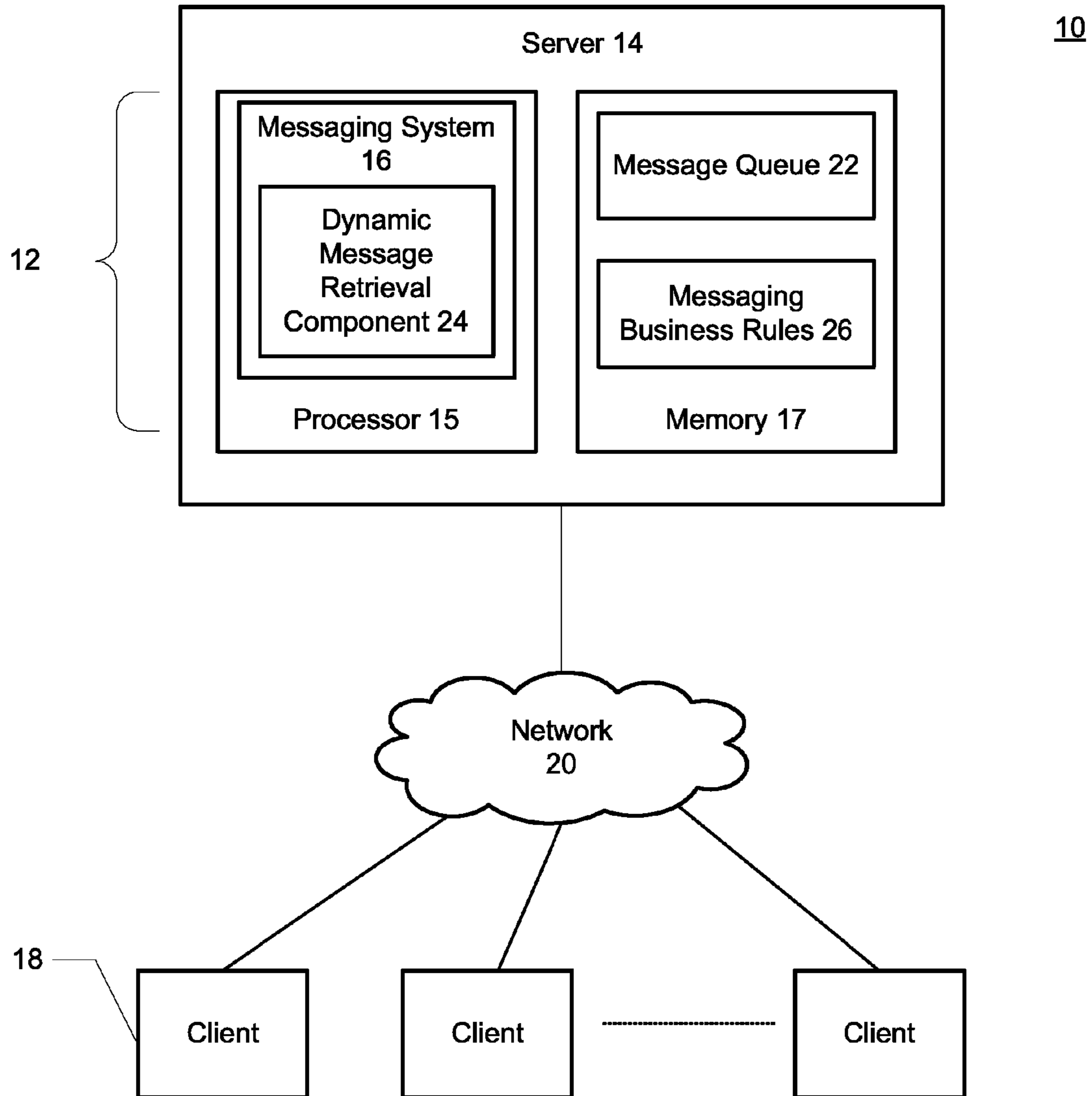
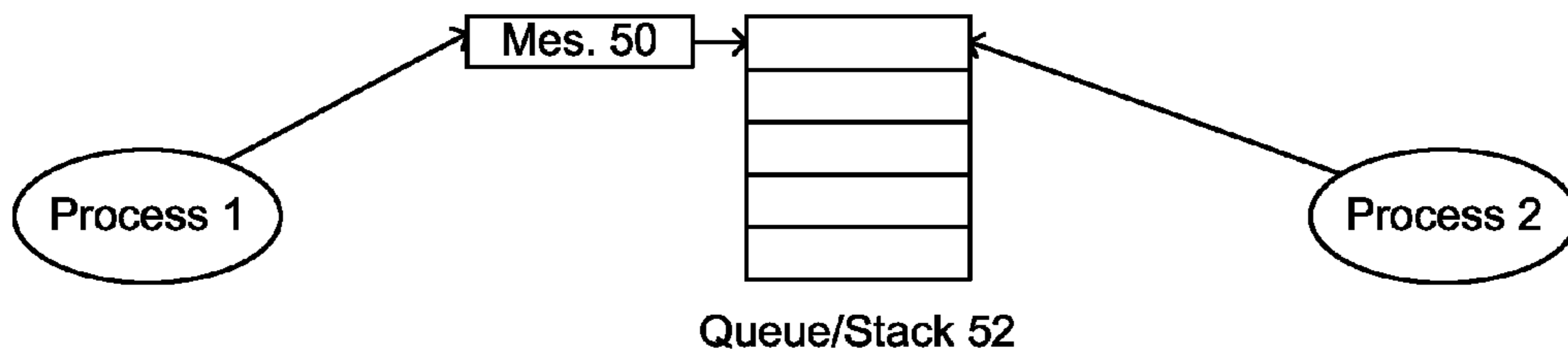
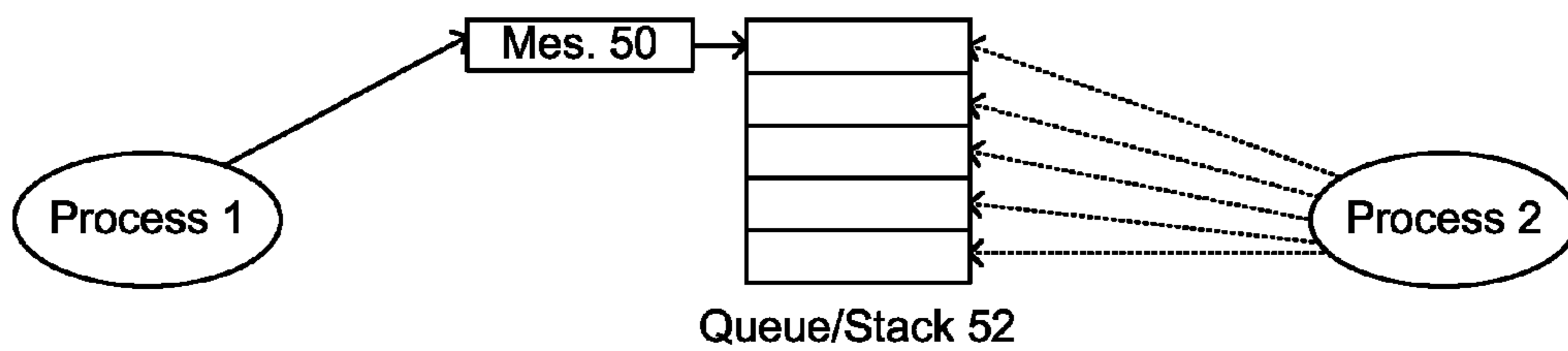


FIG 1



LIFO

FIG. 2



Random

FIG. 3

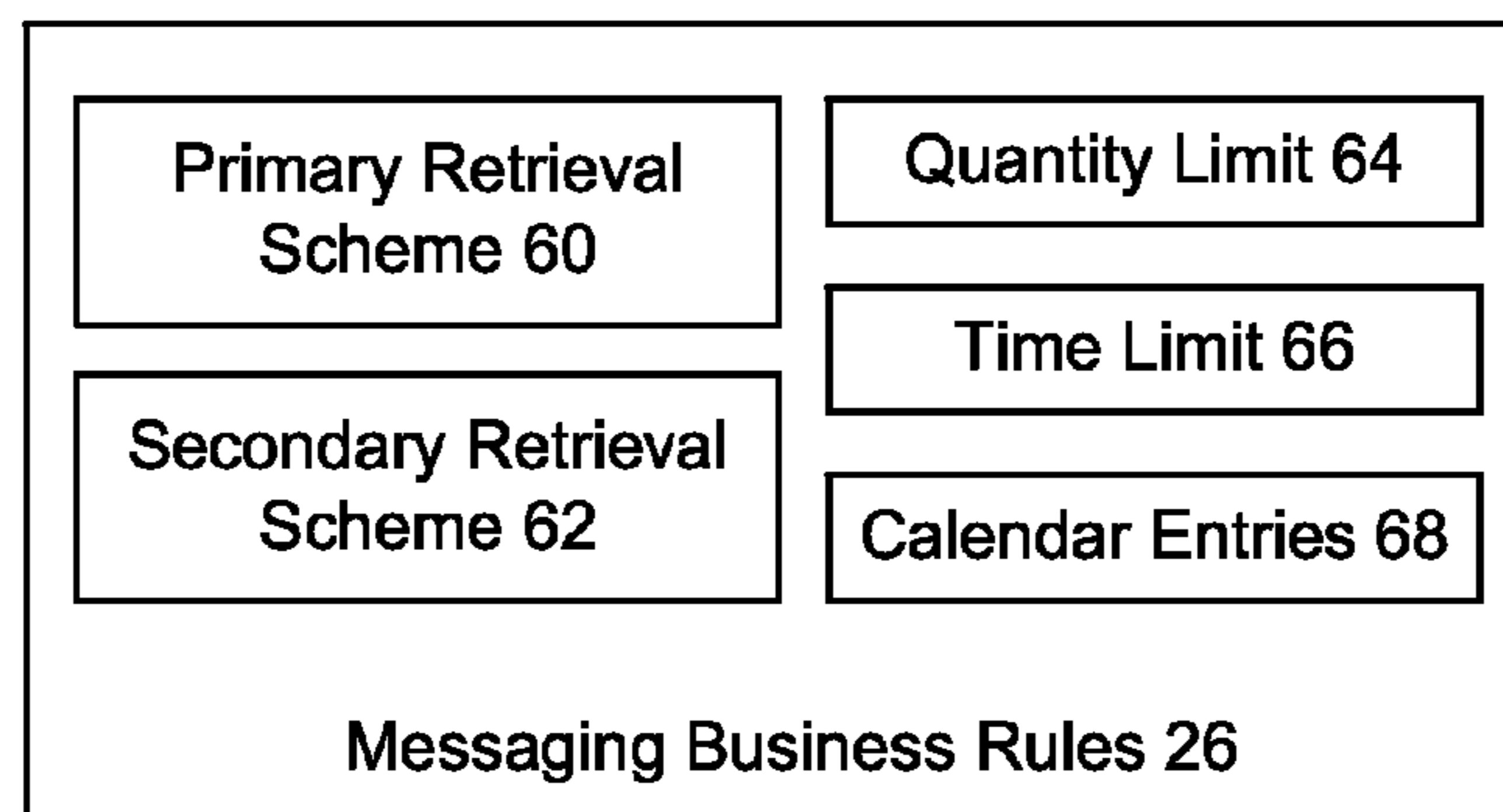


FIG. 4

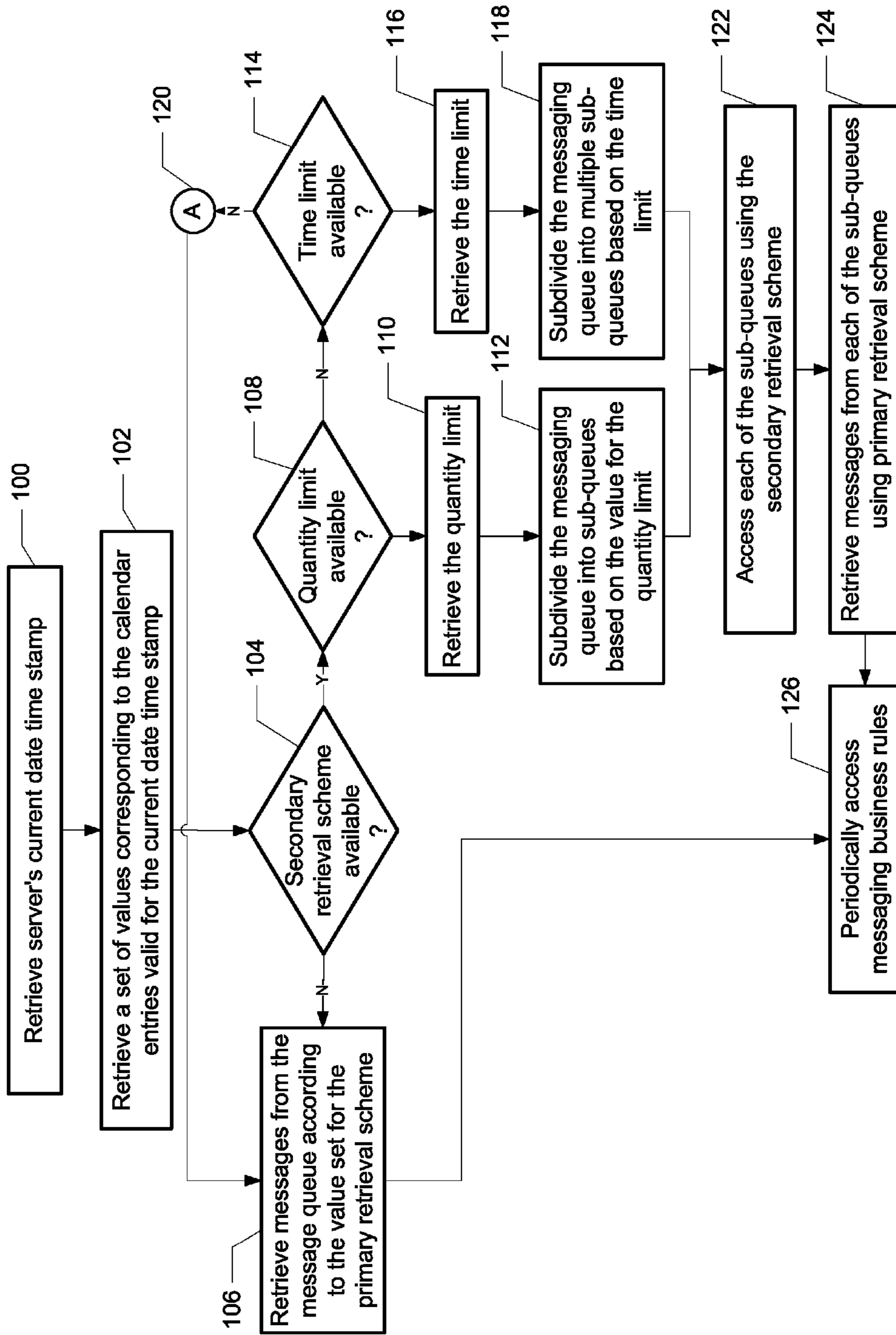
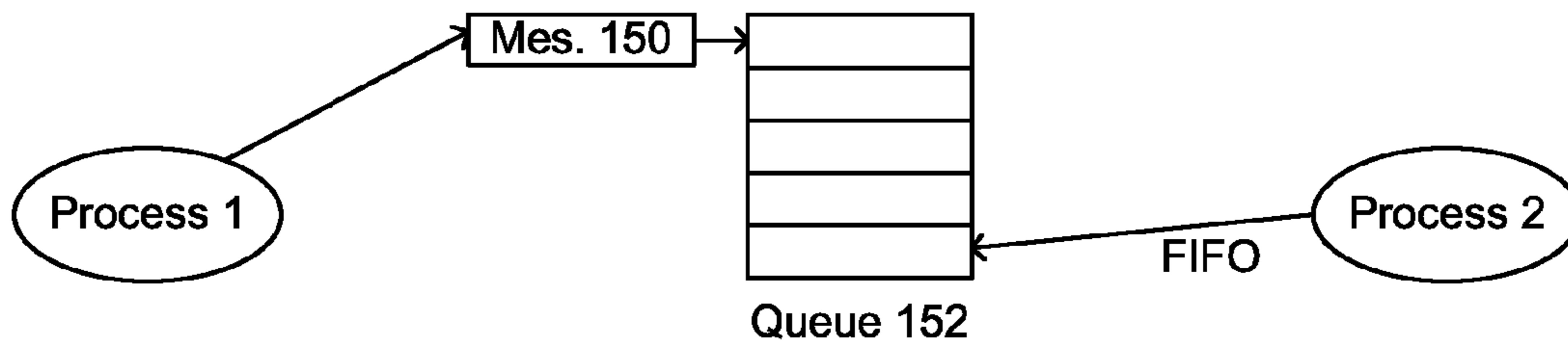


FIG. 5

Standard Monthly Processing



Processing on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>

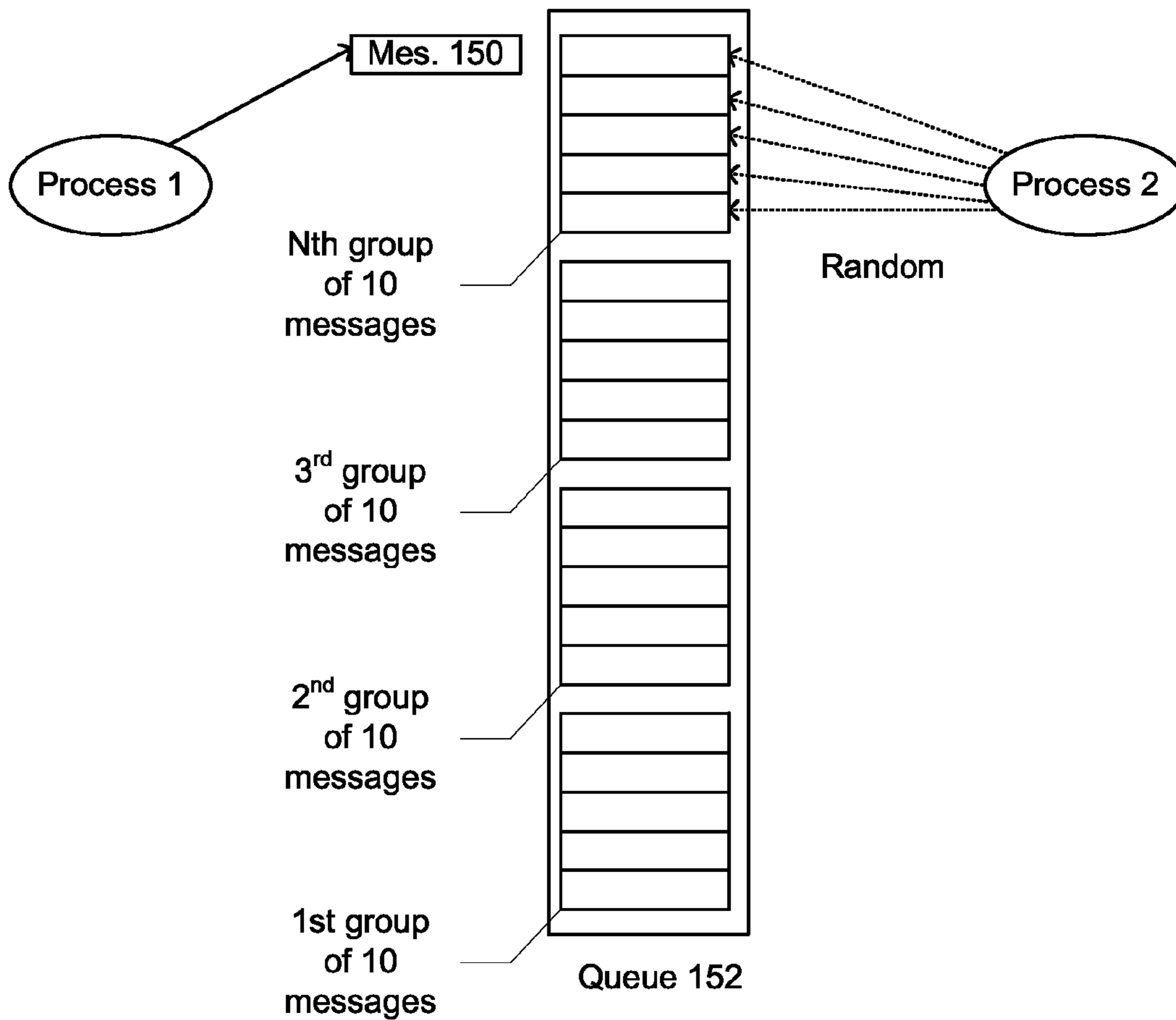


FIG. 6

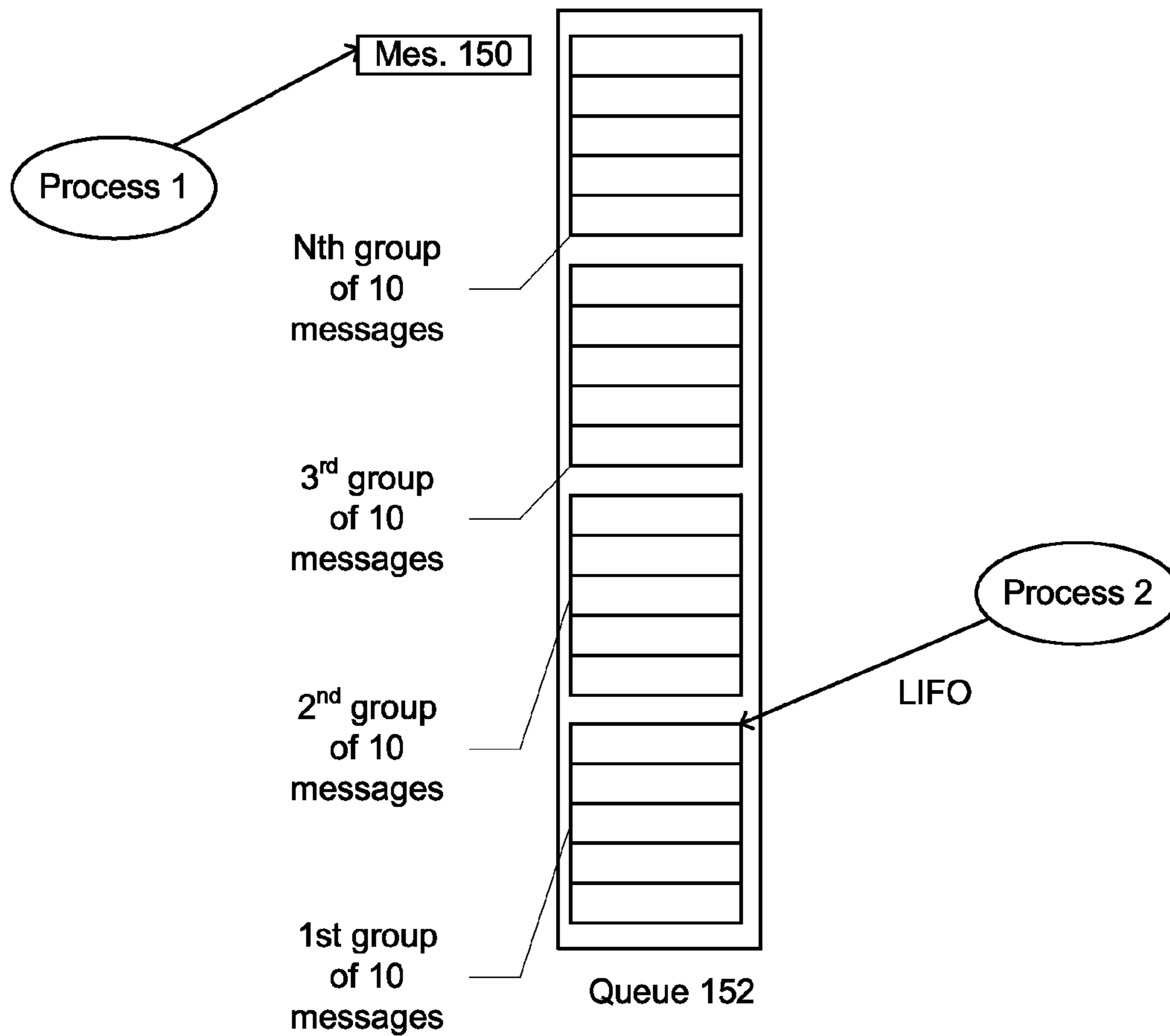


FIG. 7

1

## DYNAMIC MESSAGE RETRIEVAL BY SUBDIVIDING A MESSAGE QUEUE INTO SUB-QUEUES

### CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a Continuation of Patent Publication number US20130254275 A1, filed Mar. 20, 2012, and published on Sep. 26, 2014, assigned to the assignee of the present application, and incorporated herein by reference.

### BACKGROUND

Middleware, such as message-oriented middleware (MOM), for example, includes software or hardware infrastructure such as web servers, application servers, messaging and similar tools that support sending and receiving messages between distributed systems. Middleware can enable interoperability between applications that run on different operating systems by supplying services so the application can exchange data in a standards-based way.

The computer software industry has several well established middleware products that provide message queuing services to customers requiring asynchronous messaging for their enterprise applications. These products have successfully provided asynchronous message retrieval features using a First In First Out (FIFO) queuing scheme. Although the FIFO approach has adequately met the requirements of many applications, it has been unable to address the needs of applications that require a more diverse set of message retrieval options. As a result of this gap in functionality, applications that require a random message retrieval scheme or a Last In First Out (LIFO) scheme, have required developers to write “home grown” custom solutions to satisfy their requirements.

Accordingly, it would be desirable to provide methods and systems for dynamically changing a message retrieval scheme during runtime to enhance the functionality of messaging middleware so that a broader set of customer requirements can be met.

### BRIEF SUMMARY

The exemplary embodiments provide methods and systems for dynamically changing a message retrieval scheme during runtime. Aspects of exemplary embodiment include accessing messaging business rules from a memory by a message retrieval component at runtime, wherein the messaging business rules define a primary retrieval scheme and a secondary retrieval scheme, and wherein a value provided for each of the primary retrieval scheme and the secondary retrieval scheme are selected from a combination of different message retrieval types including: First In First Out (FIFO), Last In First Out (LIFO), and random. The message retrieval component subdivides the message queue into sub-queues based on at least one of a message quantity limit or a message received time limit specified in the business rules. Each of the sub-queues is then accessed using the value of the secondary retrieval scheme; and messages from each of the sub-queues are retrieved using the value of the primary retrieval scheme.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a diagram illustrating one embodiment of a dynamic messaging system.

2

FIG. 2 is block diagram graphically illustrating a LIFO message retrieval scheme.

FIG. 3 is block diagram graphically illustrating a random message retrieval scheme.

FIG. 4 is a block diagram showing an example schema of the messaging business rules.

FIG. 5 is a flow diagram illustrating an embodiment of a process for performing dynamic message retrieval based on the messaging business rules.

FIG. 6 is a diagram graphically illustrating message processing based on the messaging business rules of Example 1.

FIG. 7 is a diagram graphically illustrating message processing based on the messaging business rules of Example 2.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The exemplary embodiment relates to dynamic message retrieval. The following description is presented to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make and use the invention and is provided in the context of a patent application and its requirements. Various modifications to the exemplary embodiments and the generic principles and features described herein will be readily apparent. The exemplary embodiments are mainly described in terms of particular methods and systems provided in particular implementations. However, the methods and systems will operate effectively in other implementations. Phrases such as “exemplary embodiment”, “one embodiment” and “another embodiment” may refer to the same or different embodiments. The embodiments will be described with respect to systems and/or devices having certain components. However, the systems and/or devices may include more or less components than those shown, and variations in the arrangement and type of the components may be made without departing from the scope of the invention. The exemplary embodiments will also be described in the context of particular methods having certain steps. However, the method and system operate effectively for other methods having different and/or additional steps and steps in different orders that are not inconsistent with the exemplary embodiments. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the embodiments shown, but is to be accorded the widest scope consistent with the principles and features described herein.

The exemplary embodiments provide a messaging system with a dynamic message retrieval component that enables the messaging system to dynamically change its message retrieval scheme during runtime based on a set of messaging business rules. The dynamic message retrieval component provides several message retrieval schemes for use by the messaging system, including FIFO, LIFO, and random message retrieval schemes. This enables each independent application to dynamically customize the messaging system to meet its needs, and to have the message retrieval scheme dynamically adjust to business conditions as they evolve over time, reducing the need for internal application logic to be customized.

FIG. 1 is a diagram illustrating one embodiment of a dynamic messaging system. The system 10 comprises a client/server architecture shown in which message-oriented-middleware 12 provides communication components that support asynchronous messaging between client/server applications. The clients 18 may exist in various forms, including a personal computer (PC), (e.g., desktop, laptop, or notebook), a smart phone, a set-top box, and the like. Both the server 14 and the clients 18 may include hardware components of typical computing devices, including at least one processor 15, input devices (e.g., keyboard, pointing device,



microphone for voice commands, buttons, touch screen, etc.), and output devices (e.g., a display device, and the like). The input/output or I/O devices can be coupled to the system either directly or through intervening I/O controllers (not shown). Network adapters may also be coupled to the system to enable the data processing system to become coupled to other data processing systems or storage devices through intervening private or public networks. Cable modems and Ethernet cards are just a few of the currently available types of network adapters. The server **14** and clients **18** may include computer-readable media, including at least one memory **17** and storage devices (e.g., flash memory, hard drive, optical disk drive, magnetic disk drive, and the like) containing computer instructions that implement the functionality disclosed when executed by the processor **15**.

The server **14** hosts a messaging system **16** for access by the clients **18** over a private or public network **20**, such as the Internet, to enable messaging for an enterprise, typically between the clients **18**. The messaging system **16** may support asynchronous calls between the client and server applications. As the messaging system **16** receives incoming messages from clients **18**, the messages are first stored in a message queue **22** and subsequently retrieved according to a message retrieval scheme for forwarding to another process or client **18**.

Many conventional messaging systems provide asynchronous message retrieval from the message queue **22** using a First In First Out (FIFO) queuing and processing scheme. In a typical FIFO scheme, messages are placed in a queue and processed in order of receipt. Whenever the system **10** suffers from limited processing capacity and high demand, it is possible that the system **10** will be unable to process all incoming messages in a timely fashion. In such cases, messages at the end of the message queue **22** can be penalized due to their relative position in the message queue **22**. In many information systems, the FIFO message retrieval scheme is not sufficient, particularly in cases where the business requirement is to treat a certain quantity of incoming request fairly within a certain time period. In such a case where an enterprise or an application requires a more diverse set of message retrieval options, a developer is traditionally needed to customize the messaging system **16** to provide other retrieval options, such as random message retrieval or Last In First Out (LIFO) message retrieval.

According to the exemplary embodiment, the messaging system **16** is provided with a dynamic message retrieval component **24** that provides the messaging system **16** with the ability to dynamically change its message retrieval scheme during runtime based on messaging business rules **26**. The dynamic message retrieval component **24** provides several message retrieval schemes for use by the messaging system **16**, including FIFO, LIFO, and random message retrieval schemes. This enables each independent application to dynamically customize the messaging system **16** to meet its needs, and to have the message retrieval scheme dynamically adjust to business conditions as they evolve over time. Such an approach reduces the need for applications, including the messaging system **16**, to be customized.

Accordingly, the basic function of the dynamic message retrieval component **24** is to enable the messaging system **16** to utilize a combination of different message retrieval types and to allow this combined functionality to be dynamically configured during run-time using messaging business rules **26**. According to one aspect of the exemplary embodiment, the business rules **26** provide the messaging system **16** with a LIFO and a random message retrieval schemes in addition to the standard FIFO retrieval scheme.

FIG. **2** is block diagram graphically illustrating the LIFO message retrieval scheme. In the Last In First Out (LIFO or stack) message retrieval, process **1** may place a new message request **50** on top of a queue/stack **52**. And process **2** retrieves the new message request **50** from the top of the queue/stack **52** so that the latest message request is processed first. The LIFO retrieval process is opposite from a FIFO process where process **2** would retrieve a message request from the bottom of the queue/stack **52** so that the earliest message request is processed first.

FIG. **3** is block diagram graphically illustrating the random message retrieval scheme. In random message retrieval, process **1** may place a new message request **50** on top of a queue/stack **52**. But process **2** retrieves message requests from a random position in queue/stack **52**.

FIG. **4** is a block diagram showing an example schema of the messaging business rules **26**. According to one embodiment, the messaging business rules **26** may contain values for the following parameters: a primary retrieval scheme **60**, a secondary retrieval scheme **62**, a quantity limit **64**, a time limit **66**, and a calendar entry **68**.

According to the exemplary embodiment, the dynamic message retrieval component **24** subdivides the message queue **22** into sub-queues based on values entered for the quantity limit **64** or time limit **66** of the messaging business rules **26**. The value for secondary retrieval scheme **62** controls the order in which the messaging system **16** accesses the sub-queues. And the values for the primary retrieval scheme **60** controls the order in which the messaging system **16** accesses the messages within each of the sub-queues.

Possible values for the primary retrieval scheme **60** include FIFO, LIFO, and random for the message retrieval scheme. Possible values for the secondary retrieval scheme include FIFO, LIFO, random, and NONE for the message retrieval scheme. When NONE or no value is supplied for the secondary retrieval scheme, the messaging system **16** may use the given primary retrieval scheme as a default to access the messages in the message queue **22**.

The value of the quantity limit **64** is used along with the primary and secondary retrieval schemes **60** and **62** to set different retrieval schemes based the number of messages received. In one embodiment, this business rule parameter is not applicable when the secondary retrieval scheme is NONE.

The value of the time limit **66** may be used as an alternative to the quantity limit **66** parameter described above. The time limit **66** is used along with the primary and secondary retrieval schemes to set different retrieval schemes based the number of messages received in a given amount of time. In one embodiment, this business rule parameter is not applicable when the secondary retrieval scheme is NONE.

A value of the calendar entry **68** may be used to set different retrieval schemes based on calendar dates for multiple time periods. When this option is used, the messaging system **16** may be given multiple values for each of the business rules listed above based on the calendar. When the calendar entry is "UNSET" with no corresponding entries, all other settings may remain valid regardless of the current date-time.

Accordingly, the system **10** enables the messaging system **16** to perform a variety of message retrieval schemes dynamically in response to the messaging business rules **26**, which can be updated anytime. By defining parameters such as quantity and time limit **64** and **66** and calendar entries **68**, the messaging business rules **26** allow the message retrieval scheme of the messaging system **16** to adjust to business conditions without requiring manual intervention. Several embodiments of this approach are described further below.

## 5

Although the server **14** is shown as a single computer, it should be understood that the functions of server **14** may be distributed over more than one server, and the functionality of the messaging system **16** and the dynamic message retrieval component **24** may be combined into a lesser or a greater number of modules/components. For example, the dynamic message retrieval component **24** may be implemented as more than one component and/or may be implemented as part of the messaging system **16** or as a component that is separate from the messaging system **16**. In an alternative embodiment (not shown), the messaging system **16** and the dynamic message retrieval component **24** of FIG. **1** may be implemented as a virtual entity whose functions are distributed over multiple clients **18**.

FIG. **5** is a flow diagram illustrating an embodiment of a process for performing dynamic message retrieval based on the messaging business rules **26**. According to the exemplary embodiment, the process may be performed at least in part by dynamic message retrieval component **24** executing on the processor **15** of the server **14**. Upon startup of the dynamic message retrieval component **24**, the current date timestamp of the server **14** is retrieved (block **100**).

The dynamic message retrieval component **24** retrieves a set of values (if any) corresponding to the calendar entry **68** that are valid for the current date timestamp (block **102**). The dynamic message retrieval component **24** determines whether values for secondary retrieval scheme are available (block **104**). If values for secondary retrieval scheme are not available, then the messaging system **16** is instructed to retrieve messages from the message queue **22** according to the value set for the primary retrieval scheme **60** (block **106**).

If it is determined that values for secondary retrieval scheme are available (block **104**), then the dynamic message retrieval component **24** determines whether a value is available for the quantity limit **64** (block **108**). If a value for the quantity limit **64** is available, then the dynamic message retrieval component **24** retrieves the value for the quantity limit **64** (block **110**). The dynamic message retrieval component **24** also subdivides the message queue **22** into multiple sub-queues based on the value for quantity limit **64** (block **112**).

If it is determined that no value for the quantity limit **64** is available (block **108**), then the dynamic message retrieval component **24** determines whether a value is available for the time limit **66** (block **114**). If a value is available for the time limit **66**, then the dynamic message retrieval component **24** retrieves the value for the time limit (block **116**). The dynamic message retrieval component **24** also subdivides the message queue **22** into multiple sub-queues based on the value for the time limit **66** (block **112**).

If it is determined that no value for the time limit **66** is available (block **114**), then no value was set in messaging business rules **26** for either the quantity limit **64** or the time limit **66**. This may be treated as an error condition that is resolved as if no secondary retrieval scheme **62** was specified, and the process continues at block **106**.

If a value exists for either the quantity limit **64** the time limit **66**, then the process continues with the dynamic message retrieval component **24** instructing the messaging system **16** to access each of the sub-queues using the value set for the secondary retrieval scheme **62** (block **122**). The dynamic message retrieval component **24** also instructs the messaging system to retrieve messages from each of the sub-queues using value set for the primary retrieval scheme **60** (block **124**).

The dynamic message retrieval component **24** may periodically access the messaging business rules **26** to check for

## 6

updated values (block **126**). The actual time intervals between access of the business rules **26** is dependent upon application, but example time intervals include hourly or daily access. In one embodiment, the time interval may be configurable by an administrator or user.

Below are several example scenarios of the messaging business rules **26** which are provided to illustrate the exemplary embodiments.

## Example 1

In Example 1, the two sets of business rules values are defined as follows:

Calendar Entry: UNSET

Primary Retrieval Scheme: FIFO

Secondary Retrieval Scheme: NONE

Quantity Limit: N/A

Calendar Entry: Starting on the 15th of the month and ending on the 16th of the month

Primary Retrieval Scheme: Random Retrieval

Secondary Retrieval Scheme: LIFO

Quantity Limit: 10

Time Limit: NONE

In this example, the different sets of messaging business rules causes the messaging system **16** to automatically employ a different message retrieval scheme based on the calendar settings. The first set of messaging business rules defines a standard queuing scheme (FIFO) that will be used by the messaging system **16** for all time periods. The second set of messaging business rules defines an exception to the standard queuing scheme (RANDOM) that will be used by the messaging system **16** only on the 15th and 16<sup>th</sup> of the month, as specified by the "Calendar Entry" value.

FIG. **6** is a diagram graphically illustrating message processing based on the messaging business rules of Example 1. During standard monthly processing, the primary retrieval scheme is set to FIFO without a secondary retrieval scheme. Therefore, messages **150** are retrieved from the message queue **152** using FIFO.

When the dynamic message retrieval component **24** determines the system date matches the dates of the calendar entry in the second set of business rules, then processing is performed as specified in the second set of business rules. First, the message queue **152** is subdivided into sub-queues of 10 messages each, as specified by the quantity limit, creating 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> . . . nth sub-queues. Next, the sub-queues are accessed according to the order specified in the secondary retrieval scheme, which is set to LIFO. As such, the latest or Nth sub-queue is accessed first. And the messages therein are accessed via the primary retrieval scheme, which is set to random.

## Example 2

In Example 2, one set of business rules values are defined as follows:

Calendar Entry: UNSET

Primary Retrieval Scheme: LIFO

Secondary Retrieval Scheme: FIFO

Quantity Limit: NONE

Time Limit: 10 minutes

In this example, there is no calendar entry so a combination of FIFO for the sub-queues and LIFO for the messages will be used for all time periods.

FIG. **7** is a diagram graphically illustrating message processing based on the messaging business rules of Example 2. The message queue **152** is subdivided into sub-queues of 10

messages each, as specified by the quantity limit, creating 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> . . . nth sub-queues. Next, the sub-queues are accessed according to the order specified in the secondary retrieval scheme, which is set to FIFO, meaning the 1st sub-queue is accessed first. The messages are then accessed via the primary retrieval scheme, which is set to LIFO.

Although there are no time period settings, additional settings could be applied for a new time period by creation of a calendar entry in the messaging business rules 26. Modification to the messaging business rules 26 by an administrator can be done without any application downtime.

The exemplary embodiments will be further explained by way of use cases.

Use Case 1:

A company that manages the distribution of tickets for a major NFL franchise has decided to run a promotion that will reward free regular season tickets to 100 customers who purchase tickets to the team's preseason games. In order to give each customer an equal chance at winning the tickets, the company has decided not to award the free tickets to the first 100 customers, but would rather select the winners randomly based on the week in which the purchase was made. The desired affect is to give everyone who purchases a ticket in Week 1 an advantage over Week 2 customers, but everyone who purchases a ticket in Week 1 shall have an equal chance at winning the tickets. This problem can be solved by configuring the messaging system to retrieve messages from the queue randomly for the group of purchases made in Week 1, and continue with the same scheme in Week 2 after Week 1 processing is complete.

The business rules for this scenario would be set as follows:

Calendar Entry: UNSET  
 Primary Retrieval Scheme: Random Retrieval  
 Secondary Retrieval Scheme: FIFO  
 Quantity Limit: NONE  
 Time Limit: 1 Week

Use Case 2:

A human resources application continuously processes messages retrieved from a queue throughout the month. For the majority of the month, several different types of requests are sent to the queue, including travel reimbursements, new-hire relocation expense reports, etc. Recently, it has been determined that all payroll requests will be submitted on the 15th of the month and these requests must be given a higher priority over all other requests in the queue. The application team must accommodate this change without making any changes to the application. A business rule can be used to change the retrieval options for the messaging system so that a LIFO scheme will be used on the 15th of the month, and FIFO at all other times.

The business rules for this scenario would be set as follows:

Calendar Entry: Starting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, and ending on the 16<sup>th</sup>  
 Primary Retrieval Scheme: LIFO  
 Secondary Retrieval Scheme: NONE  
 Quantity Limit: NONE  
 Time Limit: NONE  
 Calendar Entry: UNSET  
 Primary Retrieval Scheme: FIFO  
 Secondary Retrieval Scheme: NONE  
 Quantity Limit: NONE  
 Time Limit: NONE

Use Case 3:

A service provider processes messages from a queue in a traditional fashion, but each month there is a spike in demand that causes shortages from the 25th of the month to the end of the month. During this period, the service provider has

decided not to reward clients based on their position in the queue. There is a business requirement to have messages retrieved randomly from the queue during the peak period at the end of the month. This scenario can be solved with the use of a messaging system that is configured to retrieve messages in a FIFO fashion from the beginning of the month until the 25th of the month, and then use a random retrieval scheme from the 25th to the end of the month.

The business rules for this scenario would be set as follows:

Calendar Entry: Starting on the 25th of the month, and ending on the last day of the month  
 Primary Retrieval Scheme: Random Retrieval  
 Secondary Retrieval Scheme: NONE  
 Quantity Limit: NONE  
 Time Limit: NONE  
 Calendar Entry: UNSET  
 Primary Retrieval Scheme: FIFO  
 Secondary Retrieval Scheme: NONE  
 Quantity Limit: NONE  
 Time Limit: NONE

A method and system for dynamically changing a message retrieval scheme during runtime has been disclosed. As will be appreciated by one skilled in the art, aspects of the present invention may be embodied as a system, method or computer program product. Accordingly, aspects of the present invention may take the form of an entirely hardware embodiment, an entirely software embodiment (including firmware, resident software, micro-code, etc.) or an embodiment combining software and hardware aspects that may all generally be referred to herein as a "circuit," "module" or "system." Furthermore, aspects of the present invention may take the form of a computer program product embodied in one or more computer readable medium(s) having computer readable program code embodied thereon.

Any combination of one or more computer readable medium(s) may be utilized. The computer readable medium may be a computer readable signal medium or a computer readable storage medium. A computer readable storage medium may be, for example, but not limited to, an electronic, magnetic, optical, or semiconductor system, apparatus, or device, or any suitable combination of the foregoing. More specific examples (a non-exhaustive list) of the computer readable storage medium would include the following: an electrical connection having one or more wires, a portable computer diskette, a hard disk, a random access memory (RAM), a read-only memory (ROM), an erasable programmable read-only memory (EPROM or Flash memory), an optical fiber, a portable compact disc read-only memory (CD-ROM), an optical storage device, a magnetic storage device, or any suitable combination of the foregoing. In the context of this document, a computer readable storage medium may be any tangible medium that can contain, or store a program for use by or in connection with an instruction execution system, apparatus, or device.

Computer program code for carrying out operations for aspects of the present invention may be written in any combination of one or more programming languages, including an object oriented programming language such as Java, Smalltalk, C++ or the like and conventional procedural programming languages, such as the "C" programming language or similar programming languages. The program code may execute entirely on the user's computer, partly on the user's computer, as a stand-alone software package, partly on the user's computer and partly on a remote computer or entirely on the remote computer or server. In the latter scenario, the remote computer may be connected to the user's computer through any type of network, including a local area network

(LAN) or a wide area network (WAN), or the connection may be made to an external computer (for example, through the Internet using an Internet Service Provider).

Aspects of the present invention have been described with reference to flowchart illustrations and/or block diagrams of methods, apparatus (systems) and computer program products according to embodiments of the invention. It will be understood that each block of the flowchart illustrations and/or block diagrams, and combinations of blocks in the flowchart illustrations and/or block diagrams, can be implemented by computer program instructions. These computer program instructions may be provided to a processor of a general purpose computer, special purpose computer, or other programmable data processing apparatus to produce a machine, such that the instructions, which execute via the processor of the computer or other programmable data processing apparatus, create means for implementing the functions/acts specified in the flowchart and/or block diagram block or blocks.

These computer program instructions may also be stored in a computer readable medium that can direct a computer, other programmable data processing apparatus, or other devices to function in a particular manner, such that the instructions stored in the computer readable medium produce an article of manufacture including instructions which implement the function/act specified in the flowchart and/or block diagram block or blocks.

The computer program instructions may also be loaded onto a computer, other programmable data processing apparatus, or other devices to cause a series of operational steps to be performed on the computer, other programmable apparatus or other devices to produce a computer implemented process such that the instructions which execute on the computer or other programmable apparatus provide processes for implementing the functions/acts specified in the flowchart and/or block diagram block or blocks.

The present invention has been described in accordance with the embodiments shown, and one of ordinary skill in the art will readily recognize that there could be variations to the embodiments, and any variations would be within the spirit and scope of the present invention. Accordingly, many modifications may be made by one of ordinary skill in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

We claim:

**1.** A method for dynamically changing a message retrieval scheme during runtime in a client/server electronic messaging system in which the server executes a message retrieval component and incoming messages received from the client is stored in a message queue, the method comprising:

accessing messaging business rules from a memory by the message retrieval component at runtime, wherein the messaging business rules define a primary retrieval

scheme and a secondary retrieval scheme, and wherein a value provided for each of the primary retrieval scheme and the secondary retrieval scheme are selected from a combination of different message retrieval types including: First In First Out (FIFO), Last In First Out (LIFO), and random;

subdividing the message queue into sub-queues based on at least one of a message quantity limit and a message received time limit specified in the messaging business rules;

accessing each of the sub-queues using the value of the secondary retrieval scheme; and

retrieving messages from each of the sub-queues using the value of the primary retrieval scheme.

**2.** The method of claim **1** wherein accessing messaging business rules further comprises accessing a calendar entry value and at least one of a quantity limit value and a time limit value.

**3.** The method of claim **2** wherein the message retrieval component uses the calendar entry value to set different retrieval schemes based on calendar dates for multiple time periods.

**4.** The method of claim **2** wherein the message retrieval component uses the quantity limit value along with the primary and secondary retrieval schemes to set different retrieval schemes based a number of messages received.

**5.** The method of claim **2** wherein the message retrieval component uses the time limit along with the primary and secondary retrieval schemes to set different retrieval schemes based a number of messages received in a given amount of time.

**6.** The method of claim **1** wherein possible values for the secondary retrieval scheme include the FIFO, the LIFO, and the random message retrieval types, and NONE.

**7.** The method of claim **1** further comprising: accessing by the message retrieval component, a current date timestamp of the server upon startup.

**8.** The method of claim **7** further comprising: retrieving by the message retrieval component, a calendar entry from the messaging business rules that is valid for the current date timestamp.

**9.** The method of claim **7** further comprising: in response to determining that a value for the secondary retrieval scheme is not available, instructing the messaging system to retrieve messages from the message queue according to the value set for the primary retrieval scheme.

**10.** The method of claim **1** further comprising: periodically accessing the messaging business rules to check for updated values.

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